

Amendment to Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (currently amended) A processor comprising:
2 a control register to store a ~~task-current~~ privilege level for a task; and
3 a privilege remapper coupled to the control register and adapted to
4 dynamically remap the stored ~~task-current~~ privilege level of the task.

- 1 2. (currently amended) The processor of claim 1, wherein the privilege remapper
2 comprises a register to store a plurality of remapped ~~task-current~~ privilege levels to
3 be accessed using the stored ~~task-current~~ privilege level prior to runtime privilege
4 checking.

- 1 3. (currently amended) The processor of claim 1, wherein the privilege remapper
2 comprises a storage array to store a plurality of ~~set of remapped task-current~~
3 privilege levels to be accessed using a configuration value and the stored ~~task~~
4 current privilege level prior to runtime privilege checking.

- 1 4. (currently amended) The processor of claim 1, wherein the privilege remapper
2 comprises one or more logical elements to logically alter one or more bits of the
3 stored current privilege level prior to runtime privilege checking.

- 1 5. (currently amended) The processor of claim 1, wherein the privilege remapper
2 further comprises at least one selector coupled to at least one of the one or more
3 logical elements to effectuate conditional performance of said ~~logically logical~~ logical

4 alteration for at least one bit of the stored current privilege level prior to runtime
5 privilege checking.

1 6. (currently amended)The processor of claim 1, wherein the processor further
2 comprises at least one selector coupled to the control register and the privilege
3 remapper to effectuate conditional performance of said remapping of the stored task
4 current privilege level prior to runtime privilege checking.

1 7. (currently amended)A method comprising:
2 storing a first ~~task~~current privilege level for a task; and
3 dynamically remapping the first ~~task~~current privilege level to a second task
4 current privilege level prior to runtime privilege checking to effectuate a different
5 execution privilege level for the task.

1 8. (currently amended)The method of claim 7, wherein said dynamic remapping
2 comprises accessing a register to retrieve a selected one of a plurality of remapped
3 ~~task~~current privilege levels stored in said register, using the stored first ~~task~~current
4 privilege level, prior to runtime privilege checking.

1 9. (currently amended)The method of claim 7, wherein said dynamic remapping
2 comprises accessing a storage array to retrieve a selected one of a plurality of
3 remapped ~~task~~current privilege levels stored in said storage array in a set-wise
4 manner, using a configuration value and the stored first ~~task~~current privilege level,
5 prior to runtime privilege checking.

1 10. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said dynamic remapping
2 comprises logically altering one or more bits of the stored first ~~task~~ current privilege
3 level, prior to runtime privilege checking.

1 11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said altering being
2 conditionally performed.

1 12. (previous presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said dynamic
2 remapping being conditionally performed.

1 13. (currently amended) In a processor having a 4-ring privilege protection
2 scheme, where tasks attributed with a lower ring current privilege level is more
3 privileged than tasks attributed with a higher ring current privilege level, a method
4 comprising:

5 attributing a ring-2 current privilege level to a first task, nominally giving said
6 first task more privilege than a second plurality of tasks which are attributed with a
7 ring-3 current privilege level; and

8 dynamically remapping each ring-2 current privilege level to a ring-3 current
9 privilege level, and each ring-3 current privilege level to a ring-2 current privilege
10 level prior to runtime privilege checking to cause said first task to execute in fact with
11 less privileges than said second plurality of tasks.

1 14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein said first task is associated
2 with an Internet application.

1 15. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein said second plurality of tasks
2 are associated with an operating system.

1 16. (currently amended)A method comprising:

2 attributing a first current privilege level to a first collection of programming
3 instructions, said first current privilege level being different from a second current
4 privilege level assigned to a second collection of programming instructions, resulting
5 in said first collection of programming instructions to execute with a first relative
6 current privilege relationship to said second collection of programming instructions
7 at execution time; and

8 dynamically remapping said first current privilege level to a third current
9 privilege level prior to runtime privilege checking to cause the first collection of
10 programming instructions to execute with a second different relative current privilege
11 relationship to said second collection of programming instructions.

1 17. (currently amended)The method of claim 16, wherein said second and third
2 current privilege levels are the same current privilege level, and said method further
3 comprises dynamically remapping said second current privilege level of said second
4 collection of programming instructions to a fourth current privilege level prior to
5 runtime privilege checking.

1 18. (currently amended)The method of claim 17, wherein said first and fourth
2 current privilege levels are the same current privilege level.

1 19. (currently amended)A method comprising:

2 attributing a first more privileged current privilege level to a first subset of
3 least privileged tasks attributed with a least privileged current privilege level; and

4 dynamically remapping said first more privileged current privilege level
5 attributed to said first subset of least privileged tasks to said least privileged current

6 privilege level, and remapping said least privileged current privilege level attributed
7 to residual ones of said least privileged tasks prior to runtime privilege checking to
8 cause said first subset of least privileged tasks to execute with lesser privileges than
9 said residual ones of the least privileged tasks.

1 20. (currently amended)The method of claim 19, wherein said least privileged
2 current privilege level of said residual ones of said least privileged tasks are
3 remapped to said first more privileged current privilege level.

1 21. (currently amended)A method comprising:
2 attributing a first lesser privileged current privilege level to a first subset of
3 most privileged tasks attributed with a most privileged current privilege level; and
4 dynamically remapping said first lesser privileged current privilege level
5 attributed to said first subset of most privileged tasks to said most privileged current
6 privilege level, and remapping said most privileged current privilege level attributed
7 to residual ones of said most privileged tasks prior to runtime privilege checking to
8 cause said residual ones of the most privileged tasks to execute with lesser
9 privileges than said first subset of most privileged tasks.

1 22. (currently amended)The method of claim 21, wherein said most privileged
2 current privilege level of said residual ones of said most privileged tasks are
3 remapped to said first lesser privileged current privilege level.

1 23. (currently amended)A processor comprising:
2 a control register to store a current privilege level; and

3 a privilege remapper coupled to the control register and adapted to
4 dynamically remap the stored current privilege level prior to runtime privilege
5 checking.

1 24. (currently amended)The processor of claim 23, wherein the processor further
2 comprises at least one selector coupled to the control register and the privilege
3 remapper to effectuate conditional performance of said remapping of the stored
4 current privilege level prior to runtime privilege checking.

1 25. (currently amended)An apparatus comprising:
2 a control register to store a current privilege level; and
3 a privilege remapper coupled to the control register and adapted to
4 dynamically remap the stored current privilege level prior to runtime privilege
5 checking.

1 26. (currently amended)The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the apparatus further
2 comprises at least one selector coupled to the control register and the privilege
3 remapper to effectuate conditional performance of said remapping of the stored
4 current privilege level prior to runtime privilege checking.